

From FTAC to AEF:



Photos by Senior Airman Neo Martin

Airman 1st Class Kavon Warren, 509th Maintenance Squadron looks at a Kevlar helmet during the First Term Airmen Course Air and Space Expeditionary Force briefing.

Chapel starts hotline

By Melissa Klinkner

Public Affairs

Help is now available ... anytime, anywhere. The 509th Bomb Wing chaplains, in conjunction with the 509th Communications Squadron, created a toll-free 24-hour counseling hotline.

The hotline offers a direct contact to a chaplain seven days a week, 365 days a year. This service will provide confidential help to any Team Whiteman member.

"We're going to be using high tech to maintain our high touch," said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Ronald Underwood, 509th Bomb Wing. "Our goal is to help people better and faster."

The hotline, installed by the 509th CS, took effect Monday and was approved by Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander.

"Every Airman and member of our Air Force family should be able reach a chaplain, 24/7, to get spiritual support or direction to the right helping agency," Colonel Miller said. "We've always had that access through our command post, but our new, direct-access line through the toll-free number will avoid any potential barriers or embarrassment."

Chap. (Maj.) Patrick Beck, 509th BW, agrees the new



Photo illustration by Tech Sgt. Mathew Nisotis

hotline, through direct and immediate contact, will provide "an instant comfort zone because of its complete confidentiality and privacy."

He said the chaplains can provide immediate help to those with a need in the Whiteman community. "I would even call it a lifeline for those that don't know what else to do or where to go," Chaplain Beck said.

The concept for the new 24-hour hotline was initially created by Chaplain Underwood as an opportunity to help

See *HELP*, Page 14

Driving home reality of deployment



Tech. Sgt. David Hodges, FTAC NCO in charge, delivers the AEF briefing in his battle rattle.

By Senior Airman Neo Martin

Public Affairs

"Who here thinks they'll deploy within the next year? Everybody raise your hands. Take a good look, this is what you will be wearing," the Kevlar-helmeted, flak vest-wearing, desert-combat-uniformed instructor said.

The cadre at Whiteman's First-Term Airmen Course is the first in the Air Combat Command to implement this new approach to the Air and Space Expeditionary Force briefing. In an effort to prepare the new Airmen for Air Force life the usual AEF briefing was equipped with full battle rattle and deployment bags. We want to give our Airmen the most realistic portrate of the AEF possible. We owe it to our Airmen to do everything possible to prepare them for deployment," Master Sgt. Warren Weakley, 509th Bomb Wing Career Advisor, said.

During an ACC FTAC conference in November 2004, Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Ellison, ACC command chief master sergeant, informed all FTAC NCOs in charge that Airmen must be in an expeditionary mindset.

"We were told a story where alarms were going off on an installation, and everyone was taking cover — all but one Airman. When instructed to take cover by a senior leader, the Airman replied, 'It's okay, I'm not on duty,'" Tech. Sgt. David Hodges, FTAC NCO in charge, said. "Reinforcing the proper procedures for exercise and real world situations must be at the heart of what we do."

The need for an updated approach to the AEF briefing became apparent as the Air Force AEF cycle evolved into

See *FTAC*, Page 7

News in brief

Banquet scheduled

The 509th Bomb Wing's 2004 annual awards banquet begins 6 p.m. Feb. 25 at Mission's End. The menu is London broil, roasted new potatoes and green beans almandine. The cost is \$15 for senior airmen and below, \$17 for Tier 2 and civilians, and \$20 for senior NCOs and officers. Non-members add \$2.

Attire is mess dress or semi formal for military members, and coat and tie for civilians. Tickets are available from your squadron's first sergeant.

Appreciation day set

The Central Missouri State University's basketball teams host a military appreciation day Feb. 12. Members and their families get in free with a military identification card. The women's game starts at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. for the men's game.

Pharmacy procedures change

The pharmacy discontinues use of the number system Monday. To activate prescriptions, check in at window one.

Keep deployed members in thoughts, prayers

By Maj. Dave Hadden

509th Munitions Squadron Commander

The sounds of "Taps" — never has it vividly hit home more than it did on a cold winter day recently. As I peered across the cemetery witnessing the sadness of so many young adults, I remembered back to the days when they were children.

I remember my son, Josh, and his two close friends, Donnie and Craig. I remember them doing things as all boys do like riding bikes, watching them play ball and doing an extremely poor job of trying to impress the girls. I thought about the day when Josh was a junior in high school and we attended the college fair at the civic center. As we went down each row and listened to what each college had to offer, I was a bit stunned when Josh, Craig and Donnie made their way up to the National Guard recruiting table.

I had saved money for many years so he wouldn't have to work as I did to attend school. Now, he was looking for a way to help defray his college expenses despite having

enough money to attend school. I remembered back to the day the boys decided to join the Guard. Donnie and Craig immediately joined and Josh had to wait until he turned 17.

They completed their senior year of high school and also completed one year of their six-year commitment to the Guard. Two weeks after graduation, they went to basic training and technical school. After training, they all enrolled in college. Unfortunately, three weeks after enrolling in school, Josh was activated into the regular Army and sent to Afghanistan while Donnie and Craig remained in school.

I remember the long eight months that he was deployed — how concerned I was, but I was also proud of him; and was thrilled the day that he returned home and re-enrolled into college.

I'm so proud of those boys, as I'm so proud of each person that wears or has ever worn an American military uniform.

I'm proud of the sacrifices that each one has made. And, I'm further humbled by the dedication and commit-

ment of each member to ensure our freedom.

Thinking back to the boys, I remember the day Josh called and told me that Donnie and Craig had been activated and would deploy to the desert. They departed June 2004 for a one-year deployment to Iraq. I so much wanted to tell them how proud I was of them and to be careful; however, I never got around to making that call.

I will also never forget the moment I was told that Craig had been seriously injured when a roadside bomb exploded near his Humvee in Baghdad and he was given only 24 hours to live. The young fellow was life-flighted to Germany where his mother and sister would soon meet him. He so desperately wanted to return home! He stayed with us long enough to return to the states where he died at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

As the last note of "Taps" dissipates into the cold air, I truly regret not taking the opportunity to wish the boys a safe farewell. We, as a family of military servicemen, should take every opportunity to see our deployed members off, keep them in our prayers and hope for their safe return.

Don't Wait for leadership opportunities to present themselves

By Chief Master Sgt.
Benjamin Harper Jr.

379th Air Expeditionary Wing
command chief master sergeant

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — I was out the other day with some of the fine Airmen we have here in the wing and one of them made the comment, "I can't wait until I get the opportunity to lead."

There are many things about leadership that I don't understand, but I do know you don't wait on it to come, you make it happen. In every forum in the last 10 years, I have heard the statement made that we have a shortage of good leadership at all levels. What makes a good leader and why is there a shortage?

Leadership involves constant preparation. Vince Lombardi, one of the greatest football coaches of all time, once said, "It is not the desire to win that is so important but rather the willingness to prepare."

So how do we prepare then, since we are all expected to lead in this deployed combat environment? Retired Army Gen. Montgomery Meigs identified four characteristics that we might recognize as common in what we view as good leaders.

The first characteristic is intellect, from which we derive the elements of decision and execution — competence, intuition, and will. Good leaders read about good leaders. They are constantly searching and studying leaders and leadership styles from all walks of life. First they make sure they understand the goals of the mission. Then they search out proven and often innovative ways to get the job done. Here, we say "mission first," but it's understood it's people always. We make sure we and our peo-



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

Airman leadership school students attend a briefing Thursday. Courses like ALS provide Airmen with the tools to become successful leaders.

ple receive the best education and follow on training available, even in the deployed environment.

Take the maintenance group, for example. Do you think they can provide 40 percent of the airpower for this area of responsibility with the oldest fleet ever in the history of the Air Force by luck or chance? No way, it takes dedicated leaders who ensure the combat maintainers have the best tools and training available. They ensure troops are intellectually prepared to face the challenges of the daily maintenance mission.

The next characteristic is energy. Good leaders get around; they influence the daily "battles" with presence. They follow their e-mail with their feet! The very best of

them have the uncanny ability to be at critical places at critical times. They get out from under the pressure of the calendar and focus on the human element of the organization.

I think the greatest similarity between motivational energy and depression is that they are both contagious. Good leaders get up and get ready. When they are with the troops they're motivated. As a leader, the organization feeds off you. It takes a lot of energy to keep this up which is why the Air Force places so much value on the new physical fitness program.

Let's look at the troops in the operations group for a minute. This dedicated group of men and women are constantly flying. It

may be a combat, refueling or humanitarian mission, or it may be carrying troops, but the mission is constant. The Airmen in the operations group give us a tangible demonstration of the kind of energy it takes to be a good leader. It is constant, focused and always available.

The third characteristic is selflessness. It is truly motivating to know that your leader is thinking about you first, isn't it? We have all seen this characteristic demonstrated time and time again. This allows good leaders to accept the best decision and not just their decision. This characteristic causes us to look "out" and not "in" to our own benefits.

Ranger school drove this point home early to me when it taught me that it is always about the soldiers; if you take care of them, they will take care of you. In Ranger school, you learn quickly that leaders eat last and sleep last (and a lot less). Anything to do with comfort, you as the leader are last in line. To define this characteristic in the wing look no farther than the support group. They demonstrate this on a daily basis.

How about the civil engineer members who are out in the cold wind on the roofs fixing leaks? If the last fire alarm that went off in the dorms made you mad, think about how the fire department sends responders to every single one, ready to save lives. We don't fear attacks because of the selfless security forces who maintain a constant shield of protection. There are many more squadrons in the support group that do often-forgotten jobs daily. Their selflessness allows us to eat, sleep, and enjoy these creature comforts that we quickly recognize whenever they are

See LEADERSHIP, Page 18

Editorial Staff

509th BW Commander Col. Chris Miller
Chief, Public Affairs Maj. Don Langley
Chief, Internal Information . . Senior Airman Neo Martin
Editor Senior Airman Joe Lacdan
Staff writer Airman Jason Burton
Staff writer Melissa Klinkner

Published by The Sedalia Democrat, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Whiteman Air Force Base.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Whiteman Spirit* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of

Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.



Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or The Sedalia Democrat of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, age, religion, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, sex, physical handicap, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron. Editorial content is

edited, prepared and provided by the Office of Public Affairs of the 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo. All photos in the *Whiteman Spirit* are official U.S. Air Force photos, unless otherwise noted. The Services Page is a supplement to the *Whiteman Spirit* and is provided by the 509th Services Squadron.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Whiteman Spirit* is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submission doesn't guarantee publication.

For more information, call the *Whiteman Spirit* office at 687-6133, fax us at 687-7948, e-mail: whiteman.spirit@whiteman.AF.mil or write to us at:

509th BW/PA, 509 Spirit Blvd. Ste. 111
Whiteman AFB, Mo. 65305

Wing's quarterly award winners announced

By 2nd Lt. Mary Olsen
Public Affairs

The 509th Bomb Wing honored the fourth quarter award winners during a breakfast at Mission's End Jan. 28. The winners are:

Company Grade Officer

Capt. Justin Duncan, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, is the Company Grade Officer of the Quarter.

While filling in for Lt. Col. Jeffrey Vinger, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, Captain Duncan led more than 480 engineers in two Nuclear Operational Response Exercises and the Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection. In addition, he planned and constructed the NORI alternate alert facility, which reduced aircrew response times by 50 percent.

Captain Duncan identified base barrier plan discrepancies and directed a critical rewrite to ensure the safety of facilities and personnel. He also led a new five-year protective coating contract to ensure base structural upkeep and airfield safety.

As acting operations flight commander, Captain Duncan led CE's largest flight of 256 engineers. He also led and completed bivouac training scenarios, resulting in 140 trained troops.

As a mentor, Captain Duncan met with ROTC cadets from the University of Missouri, and educated them on his career field, officership and military life. He also gave of his time by leading a donation to give hundreds of dollars worth of clothes and furniture to community members.



Senior NCO

Senior Master Sgt. Paul Smith, 509th Maintenance Squadron, is the Senior NCO of the Quarter.

Sergeant Smith maintained a 92 percent quality assurance pass rate while directing 165 maintenance actions. He was integral to the NORI and managed aircraft battery servicing, and repaired two heat exchangers to ensure jets were war ready.

Sergeant Smith coordinated repairing of an air refueling valve, instead of replacing of an entire air refueling receptacle. His work helped save \$235,000. He also won the Air Combat Command safety award with his reaction to an accidental canopy initiator firing.

In earning a bachelor's degree in management, Sergeant Smith graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0 grade point average. He's now working his master of business administration degree.

Sergeant Smith is a squadron Top 4 award councilman and helped prepare food for the maintenance group Airmen luncheon, serving more than 350 people. He also donated his time repairing and painting a school band trailer, and cooked food for band members during two events.



NCO

Tech. Sgt. Michelle Mahurin, 509th Comptroller Squadron, is the NCO of the Quarter.

Fully committed to customer service and quality assurance, Sergeant Mahurin certified valid deployment entitlements for more than 800 deployed members' who were paid within a month return.



Sergeant Mahurin corrected finance post audit findings and the squadron raised its ranking from 14 to two in ACC metrics. She also audited more than 770 travel vouchers with the lowest government travel card delinquencies in the command.

Sergeant Mahurin completed five credit hours toward her Community College of the Air Force degree and maintains a 4.0 GPA. She also completed 21 hours of continuing professional education credits, preparing her for financial management certification.

As an active volunteer at a local elementary school, Sergeant Mahurin led fund-raiser activities which helped buy \$300 worth of reading supplies. As secretary in the booster club, she aided her unit in supporting a local family.

Airman

Airman 1st Class Chiya Dawoudi, 509th CES, is the Airman of the Quarter.

During the NORI, Airman Dawoudi assisted with the construction of a temporary alert facility and reduced aircrew response time by 50 percent. In addition, he was named NORI outstanding performer.

Airman Dawoudi led a four-man team during November's snowstorm and cleared 24 miles of streets and airfield which resulted in zero aircraft delay. He's also vital to airfield sweeper operations, providing safe surfaces for aircraft.

After completing his CCAF degree, Airman Dawoudi earned nine additional credits toward his bachelor's degree. In addition, he was recognized as "most improved student" at the Air Force Regional Equipment Operators Training School.

Airman Dawoudi supports the local community by frequently visiting the Missouri Veterans Home and coaches a local soccer team. Additionally, he donated his time to a local thrift store and received a certificate for his help.

Honor Guard

Senior Airman Stanly Ewan, 509th Munitions Squadron, is the Honor Guards Member of the Quarter.

As the hand-picked team leader, Airman Ewan managed and trained 11 new members in five months. He also accomplished more than 700 hours of ceremonial service and volunteered for every weekend funeral and color posting.

Airman Ewan has represented the Air Force at 20 funerals and received a commendation for excellent display of honors for an active-duty funeral. In addition, he's supported various church and school functions by displaying the colors.

Airman Ewan is working on a software engineering degree with a 3.9 GPA. He has completed 39 hours of foster care and adoption courses toward becoming a certified Missouri foster home.

As a volunteer with the squadron booster club, Airman Ewan volunteered 50 hours of time, which contributed to \$4,000 raised for squadron moral.



Volunteer

Andrea Wood, wife of Tech. Sgt. William Wood, 509th MXG, is the Volunteer of the Quarter.

Mrs. Wood is the co-fund-raiser for the Whiteman Parent Teacher Organization, and is the focal point for setting up all annual fund-raising activities for the organization.

In this position, Mrs. Wood managed six annual fund-raising activities. She's raised more than \$5,700 during the fall book fair and more than \$5,300 in cookie dough sales. She also arranged the annual "secret santa" shop, which raised more than \$6,000. Mrs. Wood's efforts helped raise more than \$30,000



which was placed back in Whiteman Elementary School. Some of this money helped purchase the "Body Walk" instructional material and supplies.

As the entertainment chair in Pettis County's "Relay for Life" committee, Mrs. Wood reached out to local communities to help raise money for cancer research.

Laborer/Craftsman

Tracey Day, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, is the laborer/Craftsman Civilian of the Quarter.

Mr. Day contributed to the flight's 94 percent vehicle in-commission rate, which exceeded ACC's goal of 90 percent. He also performed in-depth repairs on 113 vehicles and equipment, and achieved a perfect quality control pass rate.

Mr. Day's knowledge and experience enabled him to provide training on 164 critical tasks. He's also filled in as first-line supervisor and trainer for four months in the absence of the NCO in charge.

Mr. Day is certified in automobile, light, medium and heavy trucks, and is also a master automotive service excellence technician.

As the president of the Sweet Springs, Mo., Planning zone commission, Mr. Day was instrumental in bringing the first hospital there since 1972. In addition, he's a member of the Sweet Springs volunteer fire and rescue department.



Specialist/Manager

David Kehoe, 509th CES, is the Specialist/Manager Civilian of the Quarter.

Mr. Kehoe implemented a new Full Spectrum Threat Response program ensuring the wing is prepared for any incident, and he assisted each squadron representative with their FSTR program. He also ensured a constant state of readiness by upgrading the mobile command post.

Mr. Kehoe prepared the wing for the NORI by implementing plans and advising senior leaders on the activation of the base nuclear fallout shelter. He also performed as the unit deployment manager during the wing's NORI and prepared troops for this ACC inspection.

In the community, Mr. Kehoe is a regular volunteer at a veterans home. He walked with a veteran during a Vet's Day 5K race and helped raise \$1,500 to purchase a van for the home. He also organized Thanksgiving meals for 20 troops and their family members.



Associate

Hattie Roberts, 509th Services Squadron, is the Associate Civilian of the Quarter.

Mrs. Roberts conducts comprehensive health and safety inspections daily for the child development center with a perfect accuracy rate. She's also kept members trained in CPR, maintaining certification for more than 60 members in the flight.

Singled out by the commander during employee appreciation week, Mrs. Roberts received praise for her leadership and dedication. In addition, parents applauded her efforts and customer service.

Mrs. Roberts is enrolled in a Web-based course and she's working on getting her associate's degree in early childhood education. She promotes stress reduction and healthy lifestyle and initiated a yoga and pilates program. In her off-base time, Mrs. Roberts supports squadron and base activities such as the Boo Bash and tree lighting ceremony.



TRDP helps promote dental awareness for children



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ryan Wilson

Maj. Trent Payne, 509th Medical Group cleans a patient's teeth at the dental clinic.

February marks the annual celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month.

In support of this month-long event, the Tri-care Retiree Dental Program joins other organizations in promoting awareness about the importance of protecting children's teeth and maintaining good oral health. The American Dental Association, recognized as a leading authority on oral health, recommends parents provide children with a balanced diet, limit their snacks, ensure they brush their teeth daily and have regular dental checkups.

Other recommended oral hygiene practices include beginning to take care of a child's teeth as soon as they appear, applying dental sealants and developing good dental habits at home. As children grow older, it is also recommended they wear a mouth guard during sports activities.

Parents of children who are enrolled in the TRDP are encouraged to call and schedule an appointment today for their child to visit the family dentist for a checkup. The online dentist directory, available on the TRDP Web site at <http://www.trdp.org>, can help enrollees find a list of TRDP participating network dentists in their area.

Besides coverage for basic diagnostic and preventive services such as oral examinations and X-rays, routine cleanings and fluoride treatments, other important benefits available to children enrolled in the TRDP include sealants, athletic mouth guards, oral surgery and orthodontics.

In addition to daily brushing and regular dental checkups, — thin plastic coatings applied by the dentist to the chewing surface of the teeth — can help protect a child's permanent teeth from decay. Application of a plastic sealant on children's teeth is most often an easy, painless treatment that is long lasting and very effective in reducing cavities. Cover-

age for sealants is available under the TRDP at 80 percent of the program allowed amount for children under age 14.

According to the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, bicycling results in 100,000 facial injuries annually — mostly in children under age 14. The TRDP recognizes the importance of wearing protective equipment while participating in all types of physical sports activities and offers coverage for athletic mouth guards at 60 percent of the program's allowed amount.

A common concern in maintaining the overall dental health of older children is removing wisdom teeth. Wisdom teeth are known to cause more problems than any other tooth in the mouth, whether they have partially erupted through the gum tissue or remain underneath the gum, or "impacted." Most dentists recommend that impacted wisdom teeth be removed between the ages of 14 and 22, regardless of whether or not they're causing problems. When performed by a participating network dentist, oral surgery procedures such as removing wisdom teeth are covered by the TRDP at 60 percent of the program's allowed amount.

Wisdom teeth that have not yet been removed can be extracted during the normal course of an orthodontic treatment plan under the TRDP. Orthodontic services are covered by the TRDP after a waiting period of 12 months, at 50 percent of the program's allowed amount and with a separate lifetime maximum of \$1,200.

Details about applicable ages, time limitations, waiting periods and coverage percentages for all the TRDP benefits for children are available at <http://www.trdp.org>.

(Courtesy of the Marketing and Communications Federal Services Delta Dental of California)

Wing honors promotees during ceremony

The 509th Bomb Wing recognized 75 promotees during a ceremony at Mission’s End Tuesday. They are:

Airman Kristin Allen, 509th BW.
Airmen 1st Class Roberto Aponte, Casey Lamer, Tashonna Pollard, Nicole Reed and Craig Vance, 509th Security Forces Squadron; **William Wiltrout**, 509th Comptroller Squadron; **Tasha Lackey**, 509th Operations Support Squadron; **Brittany Musleh**, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Lakeisha Carter**, 393rd Bomb Squadron; **Candice Nicolas**, 509th Services Squadron; **Brett Macdonald, Fernando Pantoja and Dustin Springmeier**, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Cody Newsom**, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Nicholas Fenison and Elijah Reynolds**, 509th Communications Squadron; **Deja Merritt**, 509th Operations Support

Squadron and **Vilma Wade**, 509th BW.

Senior Airmen Juan Castillo, Shannon Goodwin, Jonathan Rodriguez, Scott Soverino, Christopher Wolf and Stephan Zdebski, 509th SFS; **Azminda Azoca, Tyler Brantley, Devay Carter, Adrian Garcia, John Kuhle, Moses Milligan, Neal Rooney, David Seenauth and Justin Reeves**, 509th AMXS; **Andrew Duncan, Baltazar Monar, Cora Taylor and Kenneth Woods**, 509th LRS; **Aaron Shirley and Cristina Dyer**, 509th OSS; **Edward Birdow, Bakari Edwards, Jose Gonzalezberio, Manuel Jones, Joshua May, Brett Saunders and Dong Wan Son**, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Raquel Onedera**, 509th BW; **Daryl Crane, Anthony Justus, Erin Boyd and James Muskelly**, 509th Munitions Squadron; **Bruce**

Vaughn, Eric Hubbard, Geneva Milhoan, Genevieve Simmons and Nicholas Puskarich, 509th Maintenance Squadron and **Brian Hughes**, 509th Communications Squadron.

Staff Sgts. Jeremy Pratt, 509th AMXS; **Carlos Espada, Devon Milton and Paul Santos**, 509th LRS; **Virginia Munro**, 509th AMXS; and **Christopher Gunn**, 509th CES.

Tech Sgts. Brian Howren, 509th BW; **Sean Mahurin**, 509th CES; **Kellie Duffendack**, 509th AMXS; **Steven Kitis**, MXS; **Allen Lindsay and James Vanover** 509th SFS; **Randall Hall**, and **Brian Pankratz**, 509th MUNS.

Master Sgt. David Beasley, 509th CES.

Senior Master Sgt. Glen Cottrell, 509th MXS.

Chief Master Sgt. Alphonse Godbout, 509th MXS.

Tops in Blue performs today

Tops in Blue, the premiere entertainment showcase of the U.S. Air Force will perform free at 7 p.m. today at the Mathewson Exhibition Center on the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia.

Through the creative use of today's technology, Tops in Blue will present a fun-filled, action-packed performance showcasing hits with their own special spin.

The Tops in Blue team entertains worldwide audiences with music and fun for the entire family.

In this year's show, Tops in Blue creates its own musical formula. Members take the swing of "The Brian Setzer Orchestra" and the groove of "Peaches & Herb" the harmonies of the "Tavares" and energy of "Madonna," adding the country of "Martina McBride," the emotion of "Whitney," and a pinch of "Hammer-time," shake well, then pour it into a stage setting of incredible lighting and choreography.

"Tops in Blue is the Air Force's premier entertainment showcase," said Tom Edwards, show producer and chief of Air Force Entertainment. "The new 2004 team is a reflection of the 'best of the best' performers throughout the Air Force."

The Tops in Blue tour is sponsored by Coca-Cola and AT&T. This is Coca-Cola's first year of financial support, while AT&T has sponsored the Tops in Blue program for 13 consecutive years. As a bonus, one lucky fan today's performance will win a 1,000-minute AT&T calling card.

For more show information, call the community center at 687-5617 or visit <http://www.topsinblue.com>.

FTAC, cont. from Page 1

a four-month rotation in September 2004.

"During basic military training, all Airmen are taught the AEF war cry — 'airpower ... space power, AEF!' Unfortunately, the Airmen are not taught why they learned it," Sergeant Hodges said. "That's our focus — to teach the Airmen why AEF is so important in our lives. Everyone from the cop to crew chief and transporter to civil engineer needs to understand their role and the impact it will have on their lives."

With that in mind, the new briefing was constructed to give a hands-on approach complete with more than 90 photos of servicemembers living and working in a deployed environment.

"Have your bags packed," Sergeant Hodges said. "Getting the call at 5 a.m. and realizing your mobility bags aren't packed is not the best way to begin a deployment."

Aside from detailing the packing list, the 17-year veteran shared some "tricks of the trade" for ensuring the contents of the bags aren't only present, but not damaged or spoiled. "Keeping your toiletries and clothing in plastic bags can prevent a lot of problems," Sergeant Hodges said. "I've seen people deploy with spiders. A little preparation can go a long way."

During the briefing, Sergeant Hodges' mood became serious, as he passed around Kevlar body armor plates and a helmet. "This is what you have for protection ... this and your training," he said, hammering lessons of learned from their classes and briefings. "We reinforce the importance of paying attention in chemical warfare defense training, weapons training, self-aid and buddy care, etc. We even discuss the preparation we need for our social and personal lives. Proper preparation, from all angles, brings us home to our loved ones."

The new AEF briefing brought deployment perspectives and challenges to the first group of FTAC students to attend.

"We received some briefings like this in (BMT), but this really has been brought me a first-hand view," said Airman 1st Class Brad Couvillo, 509th Maintenance Squadron. "I feel better prepared and motivated to deploy."

Whiteman's FTAC instructors plan on sharing the results and feedback with the rest of their community. "We (ACC FTAC) are a huge network sharing ideas to benefit Airmen across the globe," Sergeant Hodges said.

"I feel we practice and exercise enough, but reality checks are not common," Hodges said. "Putting on the DCUs with full battle rattle gives a more realistic touch to our AEF briefing. Some Airmen aren't prepared because they don't know (what to expect from) deployments until it happens. By then, it's too late."

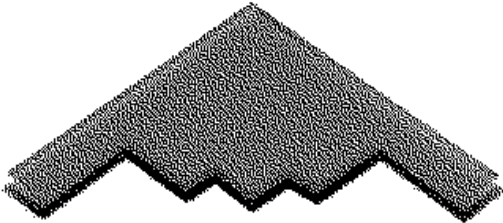
"With the outstanding training the Airmen now receive from CWDT, combat arms training and maintenance instructors, to name a few, and the efforts of unit deployment managers, coupled with the orientation we're providing," he said, "the Airmen will be prepared!"

Winter Safety Tips

Winter presents many safety challenges, with its cold and often stormy weather. Being prepared and following these simple safety tips can help people stay safe and warm this season.

These safety tips from the Center for Disease Control, the National Fire Protection Association, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission can help prevent injuries and deaths related to heating your home.

- ✔ Install a smoke alarm near bedrooms and on each floor of your home. Test it monthly. If it has a nine-volt battery, change the battery once a year.
- ✔ Install a carbon monoxide alarm near bedrooms and on each floor of your home. If the alarm sounds, the U.S. CPSC suggests pressing the reset button, call 911 or the local fire department and immediately move outdoors or near an open door or window. Know the symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, fatigue, dizziness and shortness of breath. If people experience any of these symptoms, get fresh air right away and contact a doctor for proper diagnosis.
- ✔ Make sure the heating equipment is installed properly. Have a trained specialist inspect and tune up the heating system each year.
- ✔ Keep portable space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn, including bedding, furniture and clothing. Never drape clothing over a space heater to dry.
- ✔ Keep children and pets away from space heaters. Never leave children in a room alone when a space heater is in use.
- ✔ If using a kerosene heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never put gasoline in a kerosene heater — it could explode. Before refueling the heater, turn it off and let it cool down. Refuel outside only.
- ✔ When using a kerosene heater, keep a door open to the rest of the house or open a window slightly. This will reduce the chance of carbon monoxide build-up in the room.
- ✔ Have the fireplace chimney, and flue inspected each year and cleaned if needed. Open the flue and use a sturdy fireplace screen. Burn only untreated wood; never burn paper or pine branches. The pieces can float out the chimney and ignite your roof, a the roof, or nearby trees.
- ✔ If a wood-burning stove is used, have the chimney connection and flue checked each year. Make sure the stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect the floor from heat and coals.
- ✔ Never use the range or oven to heat the home, even for a short time. *(Courtesy of the 509th Bomb Wing Ground Safety Office.)*



Spirit Spotlights

... on **Airman 1st Class Raquel Onedera, Tech. Sgt. Michelle Mahurin, Master Sgt. Daryl Danker, Capt. Mike Fisk and Andre Thomas** the 509th Bomb Wing staff Airman, NCO, senior NCO, company grade officer and civilian quarterly award winners.

... on **Senior Airmen Anthony Mejia, Christopher Urbano and Brian Jones, and Tech. Sgt. James Pirillo**, the 509th BW Load Crew of the Quarter.

... on **Airmen 1st Class Daryl Crane and Dustin Martin and Tech. Sgt. Michael Beck**, the 509th BW Armament Systems Maintenance Crew of the Quarter.

... on **Airman 1st Class Joseph Allman, Staff Sgt. Joshua Haskins and Master Sgt. Ray Smith**, the Aircraft Armament Systems Technician, Supervisor, Manager of the Quarter.

The *Whiteman Spirit* wants to feature you.

Do you, or does someone you know, have a story idea you'd like to see in the paper? Let our staff know about it.

For more information, call 687-6133 or e-mail whiteman.spirit@whiteman.af.mil.



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Capt. Sean Walker, is the only pilot here to be certified in the B-2, A-10, T-38 and Apache helicopter. He is the 325th Bomb Squadron's chief of standards and evaluations.

‘Sky’ Walker

Ex-Soldier trained in all Whiteman aircraft



By Senior Airman Joe Lacdan
Public Affairs

A bump along the aviation road didn’t stop Sean Walker.

In fact, it may have paved the way for the 325th Bomb Squadron captain to make the Whiteman history books.

The 36-year-old is the only pilot to become certified in each aircraft that calls Whiteman home: the T-38 Talon, the A-10 Thunderbolt II, the Apache helicopter and, of course, the B-2 Spirit Bomber.

“It wasn’t planned — that’s for sure,” said Captain Walker, the 325th BS chief of standards and evaluations. “It just kind of worked out that way.”

Growing up with dreams to become a pilot in upstate New York, Captain Walker didn’t receive the Air Force pilot training scholarship he desired coming out of Mexico High School in Mexico, N.Y.

So he opted for a different route: the U.S. Army Warrant Officer flight training program in the spring of 1988.

“Things happen for a reason,” Walker said. “This was just the way my path was supposed to go.”

His path in the Army took him on a seven-year journey where he learned to fly some of the military’s most prestigious choppers including the Apache, OH-58 Kiowa and the UH-1H Iroquois.

“I got a lot of experience out of it,” Walk-

er said. “We got to do a lot of neat stuff.”

Walker flew Apaches during Operation Desert Storm against the fleeing Iraqi republican guard. While he spent much of his Army career hitting targets, he also spent time hitting the books.

Walker graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a degree in professional aeronautics. His interest in aviation began early in his life.

Watching an Air National Guard unit fly A-10s over his upstate New York home as a 10-year-old spawned dreams of flying the powerful aircraft.

Captain Walker realized that dream in the fall of 1997 when he joined the Air Force in the summer of 1995. He reported to Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., for A-10 training and his Air Force first duty assignment at Eielson AFB, Alaska. He also flew A-10 combat missions in Operation Desert Fox and Operation Southern Watch.

“I was thrilled,” Captain Walker said. “I’ve always wanted to fly jets in the Air Force and I’ve always loved the A-10.”

After working as an instructor pilot at Moody AFB, Ga., he decided to apply for the B-2 and T-38 program.

In the summer of 2001, Captain Walker met Lt. Col. Robert Duncan, a former B-2 pilot and current 442nd Fighter Wing member, and learned about the B-2 program. In June 2004, Walker completed T-38 and B-2 training.

“I think I’ve accomplished a lot,” Captain Walker said. “It’s been diverse, rewarding and fun.”

1st Sergeant's View

(Editor's note: The 1st Sergeant's View gives Whiteman first sergeants a chance to remind people of correct uniform wear, customs and courtesies, and proper military decorum. Each week, a different first sergeant will share their view.)

By Master Sgt. Dale Spotten

509th Munitions Squadron First Sergeant

Somewhere in the deep dark recesses of my childhood memories, I remember these words; “do a good turn, daily.” Was it Boy Scouts, church camp or just my annoying parents?

Fast forward 30 years and I’m on a rotator flight heading to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom and playing on the airline screen is the movie, “Pay It Forward.” It has a very familiar theme to me.

The movie is based on a book by Catherine Ryan Hyde with the same title. It centers on a grade school class project for extra credit: Think of an idea for world change and put it into action. One child’s idea is to do a random act of

kindness for three people and instead of getting a pay back, he tells them to share the kindness with three others; to pay it forward. This system multiplies from three people to 27, and then to 81 people, then to 243; the numbers continue to grow. While it was an otherwise entertaining film, what I didn’t realize is that this is a movement; a cultural change in our society.

We just finished what is our most generous, giving time of the year; bells were ringing, coins and dollar bills were being dropped in buckets, food baskets were being stocked and delivered, and paper angels were flying off trees to be replaced with wrapped presents for families in need. Invitations to Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners were extended and accepted. But, now it’s February. What are you doing for your community and fellow man? “Pay it Forward,” is not just a book or a movie. It’s a reality that should be embraced here daily.

Get involved in our community and make a difference. There are lots of things that need to be done, so I challenge you to find one and get involved.

Projects like Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers and Sisters and the youth center on base are some programs you can be involved in. Churches are always looking for Sunday

school teachers, music and worship leaders. What about youth sports? There are lots of programs on base and in the local communities to teach proper sports techniques, rules and values. Something as simple as reading to a grade school class or math tutoring can have a huge impact on our future.

Are you performing random acts of kindness within your workcenter or just “doing your job?” Sure, when a co-worker has a baby or someone wins an award we pass the hat and feel good about what we’ve done. What about the rest of the time? Are you seeking out opportunities to help one another? Help without being asked. See if that new arrival from technical training really needs some help figuring out their role in this “real Air Force.” Reach out to the families left behind when your co-worker, friend or neighbor deploys. Offer to lend that helping hand whenever and wherever needed. Get involved in your unit councils and professional organizations.

Whatever your particular interests are, they can be used to benefit others. Don’t expect a reward or even a thank you; just tell others to “pay it forward.” The Boy Scouts had it right years ago with their slogan; it just took an entertaining film about a little boy’s vision to re-awaken this reality in my mind.

FSC

Tying family support to family readiness



Alan Stachowiak, family support center advisor, helps Senior Airman Bethany Ponton prepare her resume. The FSC offers free, hands-on resume assistance programs to military members and their families. "It's exciting to know so much is offered here," said Airman Ponton. "We can give you the keys to success," said Mr. Stachowiak.



Tech. Sgt. Tammy Klonowski and Patricia Cotton inventory a dish pack in the FSC loan locker. Families leaving or coming to Whiteman can sign out household items such as dishes, pots, pans, VCRs and microwaves during the transition.

Family Support Center facts and info

By Jack Bryant
509th Mission Support Squadron

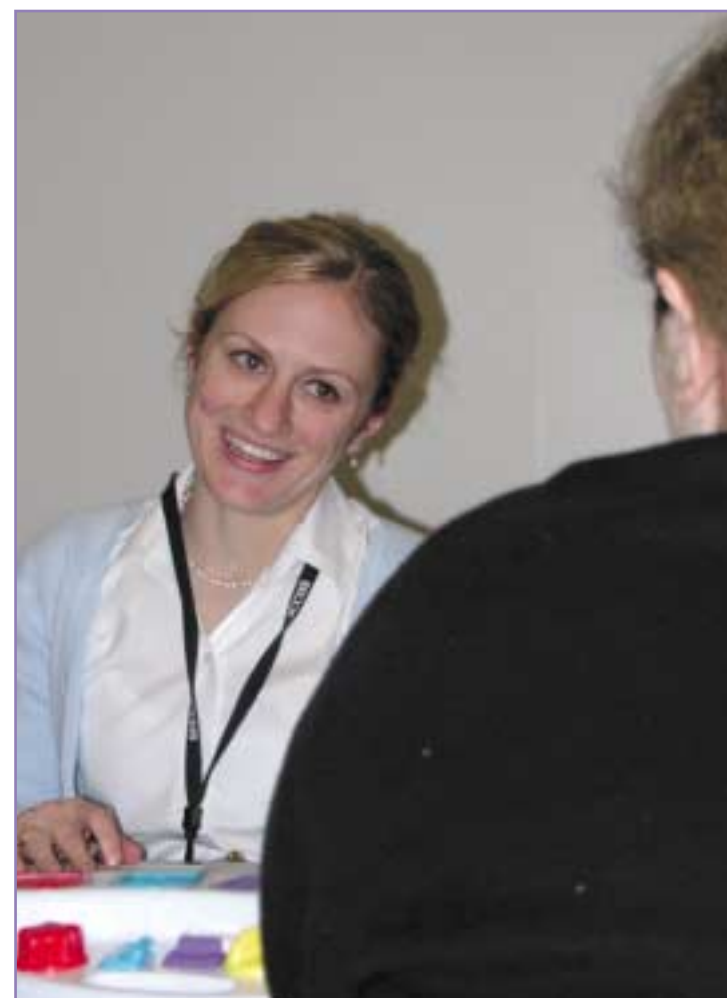
- ✓ The family support center members are dedicated to family readiness.
- ✓ The FSC helps ensure Whiteman's warriors are ready to deploy when they are called upon. This includes ensuring the families are also ready.
- ✓ Financial counseling is a major part of the readiness picture as is endeavoring to ensure relationship issues are worked with. These potential distractions must be addressed so our warriors are able to focus and perform their duties to the best of their ability.
- ✓ Programs offered by the FSC are available to servicemembers and their families whether at home station or deployed.
- ✓ For details about other classes the FSC offers or for assistance, call the FSC at 687-7132.



Sarah Vasant explains the car care and free child care coupons to Stephanie Jones. The FSC offers the coupons to families of remote and deployed military members. Mrs. Jones is wife of Senior Airman Richard Jones, 509th Maintenance Squadron.



Smitty Smith, family support center financial advisor, sorts donated canned goods in the food pantry. The pantry is available to servicemembers and their families who fall financially short and are in need. The food at the pantry is available to all ranks on a no-questions-asked basis.



WIC nutritionalist Megan Bronco works with a client to ensure her family's needs are met. Women Infants and Children is a health promotion and supplemental food program that helps families with nutritional needs. WIC representatives are available at the family support center Tues. and Thurs.



Photos by Senior Airman Neo Martin

Above: Sandy Williams, family support center member, helps Cheyenne Peel decorate a project during a Hearts Apart party at the FSC. Families of deployed and remote service members traced themselves, colored and cut out the drawings. The life-size pictures will be sent to the servicemembers as part of a "Hugs from Home" project designed to raise the morale of the entire families. Cheyenne is the daughter of Staff Sgt. Wesley and Tara Peel, 509 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Right: A completed "Hug from Home" designed by Tabitha and Jade Pleasants, wife and daughter of Senior Airman William Pleasants, 509th Security Forces Squadron.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Blazier

A-10 power

Members of the 509th Contracting Squadron, Columbia Curb and Gutter of Columbia, Mo., and CCG of Oklahoma pose in front of a 442nd Fighter Wing A-10 Thursday marking the completion of an A-10 engine power check pad. The pad was completed four months ahead of schedule. From left: Tech. Sgt. Todd Lewis, 509th Operation Support Squadron; Gary Hall, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron; Vicki Dickerson, George Cromer and Janet Judkins, 509th Contracting Squadron; Charlie Bell, CCG, Columbia MO.; Jack Dalrymple, CCG of North Miami, OK.; Charlie Bell and Steve Kullman, CCG, Columbia, MO.

HELP, cont. from Page 1 —

more people in the Whiteman community. He expects the program will become a permanent fixture here and, as it stands, is one of the few programs of its kind in the Air Force, said Chaplain Underwood. “I don’t know why we haven’t thought of it before.”

Chaplain Beck said this program will provide a way to help people deal with personal issues in a better manner as it gets consistently more difficult for people to cope and survive within the military.

While most of the impact will be unobserved, it will be definite, Chaplain Underwood said. “A lot of the work we do as chaplains is unseen. We do it quietly, privately and confidentially. However, there’s no doubt this will definitely impact the mission.”

According to chaplains, if people can get help via the hotline, they’ll be more likely to take a good attitude back to their workplace and contribute more to their fellow Airmen and squadron.

“All of us on Team Whiteman benefit when our teammates are able to work through the troubles that crop up in every life from time to time. Kudos to the 509th’s chaplains and the 509th CS, for realizing a need and working together to meet it,” said Colonel Miller.

The 24-hour counseling hotline number is 866-395-HELP (866-395-4357). (*Senior Airman Joe Lacdan, 509th BW Public Affairs, contributed to this story.*)

Education

For more details, visit the education center Web site at <https://wwwmil.whiteman.af.mil/509mss/educ/home-page.htm>

Needs assessment survey

The base training and education services flight is conducting a needs assessment survey. Base members are asked to take a few minutes to complete this survey. To access the survey, go to <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/>. Under Needs Assessment, click on "Take the Survey." Feedback and comments help the base training and education services flight offers programs that best fit Whiteman's needs.

Community

Free concert for military members

The Veteran's of Foreign Wars Unmet Needs Program is hosting a concert for military members at 8 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Uptown Theatre in Kansas City, Mo. Gary Sinise and his band, the Lt. Dan Band, will be performing.

If attendees need childcare, there will be bonded child care available.

People who are interested in receiving two free tickets must e-mail johnkerr@kerrs.net today. Tickets will be sent in the mail.

People requesting tickets must include: name, rank and

unit; where to send tickets; and number and ages of children if child care is needed.

ALS schedules events

✓ The airman leadership school class 05-B retreat begins at 4 p.m. today at the base flag pole at Bldg. 509. Participants must be in place by 3:45 p.m.

✓ Reveille begins at 7:30 a.m. Thursday at the ALS drill pad. Participants must be in place by 7:25 a.m.

✓ The ALS Class 05-B graduation begins at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Mission's End. Speaker is retired Maj. Harvey Bayless, who supported the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. The cost is \$15.95 for members and \$17.95 for non-members. The dress is mess dress or semi-formal for military, and coat and tie for civilians.

Family Support

Call 687-7132 for more details on these events or other family support center activities. Events take place at the FSC.

Air Force volunteer award nominations

Nominations for the Air Force Volunteer Excellence Award are due to the FSC by March 11.

The Air Force Volunteer Excellence Award was established to recognize federal civilians, family members and military and federal retirees who perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature. Because of its significance, only four people from Whiteman will be recognized during the annual

volunteer reception April 27. For more information, call Bob Berger at 687-1222.

Spouses training classes

The Air Force Aid Society is paying for training classes to teach entry-level employment skills to spouses of active-duty Air Force members. The goal of the training is to enhance immediate employment opportunities.

Classes include medical terminology at State Fair Community College, Microsoft Office at SFCC, career orientation and workplace skills at Central Missouri State University, and Kitchen Production at CMSU.

Sign-ups for these classes are on a first-come, first-served basis, and are limited to 10 students each and one class per spouse. However, spouses can place their name on a waiting list for any other class of their choice.

To sign up and for more information, contact the FSC.

Pre-separation briefing set

A pre-separation briefing for people separating from the military begins at 8 a.m. Monday. Representatives from the military personnel flight, family support center, Reserves and finance will provide information. The MPF separations and retirements office schedules members for this briefing. For more information, call 687-1500.

WIC representative visits base

A WIC representative is available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. WIC includes nutrition education, health promotion and a supplemental food program to help women, infants and children who have nutritional needs. For more details, call 660-747-2012.

LEADERSHIP, continued from Page 2

absent.

The final characteristic is humanity. While humanity is essential to success for all of us, we most often think of the medical folks when speaking of humanity. Every customer they get never stops by unless he or she is not feeling well; yet, they always take care of us.

Even so, it is a demanding environment for all of us and mission accomplishment is critical. Every day there is a risk of failure, and while we have the best of plans and training, the outcome is still in doubt until we execute the mission. The difference in victory and defeat often lies in the faith the troops have in the leadership and the combined perseverance to “hold the line.”

To engender that faith, leaders must have a human touch and a feel for the troops. Lt. Gen.

Walter Buchanan III, U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander, says he would “rather talk than type.” It is hard to relay humanity through email. It is hard to feel the temperature of the workplace or the distance to the bathroom from a Power Point presentation.

I have had several great lieutenant supervisors in my life that have really taught me some good lessons. Lieutenant Derry, my best lieutenant supervisor ever, was the kind of leader you would die for. He led us by example but he never put himself above any task. If we were wet, he was wet; if we were hot, he was hot. You get the picture. He was out there. He cared for us and it showed daily. “To lead you must know, and to know you must go,” is a motto that the lieutenant exemplified.

Another time, at a change of command, a general also taught me humanity. The weather was threatening and we were all outside while the official party was on the stage and under a cover. As the ceremony began, it started raining. The general got off the stage and out from under the cover. He remained there and gave his entire speech while getting rained on like the rest of us. Now, if you think he was just too dumb to get out of the rain, you are sadly missing the point of humanity in leadership. He set an example I will never forget.

Understanding the mission, maintaining the energy to see it through and caring about your troops are leadership qualities that each of us, regardless of our jobs, can do every day. So don’t wait for the opportunity to lead, take it!

*Tell
them
you
care.*



**Send a
message to
the loved
ones in your
life!**

**The
Whiteman
Spirit
wants to
print your
Valentine
messages
in the
Feb. 11
issue.**



Whiteman teens take unlikely paths

Top flight diver turns into solid defender

By Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Public Affairs

Two years ago, Ashley Grindstaff stood on a diving board, as the Pacific Ocean breeze whizzed by her and the Southern California rain fell overhead. She stared at the shining ripples below and saw her future.

But it was a future that would never happen.

Ashley, daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Max Grindstaff, 509th Communications Squadron, developed into one of California's top prep divers at Cabrillo High's outdoor swimming pool. And she did it in just two years of competitive diving.

"Some divers just have natural ability," said her diving coach Jim Thompson. "She picked up diving very quickly."

Her coach and teammates weren't the only ones she impressed.

"I was quite surprised," Sergeant Grindstaff said. "She looked pretty composed. I was trying to figure out where she learned it from."

During her sophomore year, Ashley learned just how good she was, placing ninth in the California Interscholastic Federation diving meet (California has no state diving tournament).

"She was a strong athlete," Thompson said. "She had grace and flexibility."

However, that meet would be Ashley's last.

Half a world away at Diego Garcia, her father learned he wouldn't be moving his family to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., while serving a remote tour. Sergeant Grindstaff had just made senior master sergeant. With no assignments available for his new rank at Eglin, Sergeant Grindstaff moved his family to Whiteman. Ashley would attend Knob Noster High, which had no diving teams.

Ashley knew her future would remain in sports, but not in diving.

Fortunately, there was another sport she played pretty well: volleyball. Although she competed on a struggling Knob Noster squad, Ashley worked tirelessly on her skills. She ran track in the spring to boost her endurance and became a mainstay for the team's back-row defense. But her love for diving lingered.

"It was hard my junior year coming around the spring sports season, and not being in a pool and not diving," the high school senior said. "It seemed strange to be running track in the spring and not diving. It was a shocker."

Years of growing up as a military dependant in New York, Michigan, North Dakota and England gave her strength to put her diving career to rest. The 17-year-old has earned an athletic scholarship to play volleyball for Missouri River Valley College in Marshall, Mo. She signed a National Letter of Intent Jan. 12.

"She's focused, resilient and able to adapt like a true military kid," Sergeant Grindstaff said. "She was able to bounce back from adversity and excel in her new environment. It allowed her to refocus all her athletic hopes and desires on volleyball."

Ashley developed into one of the Missouri Valley Conference's best backrow defenders. Ashley led the Panthers with 1.4 digs per game, often saving crucial points for her team in crunch time. She had the uncanny sense of knowing where the ball would hit.

"The same thing that made her a great diver made her a great volleyball player — the inner determination and strength," said Knob Noster volleyball coach Terri Combs.

As her swimming medals collect dust in her bedroom, she plans to study biology at Missouri Valley bearing no regrets.

"I was disappointed," she said of giving up diving. "But I had to think God put me (in Missouri) for a reason."



Ashley Grindstaff will play defensive specialist at Missouri Valley College.



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Ashley Grindstaff, daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Max Grindstaff, 509th Communications Squadron, was a talented diver in California before focusing her energies on volleyball.

Three surgeries later ... she's a scholarship athlete



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Brianna Murray's powerful serve is one reason why she was recruited by Missouri Valley College.

By Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Public Affairs

It came on an innocent play, as most devastating sports injuries often do.

Brianna Murray went up for a lay-in during preseason scrimmages for Knob Noster's girls basketball team. When she landed, she felt a sharp pain in right knee.

It was the same knee that she had wrecked cartilage and had surgically repaired — twice. Now she would need surgery again, for the third time in three years.

Then, 15, she had earned a spot on the varsity as an underclassman. It looked like her basketball and athletic career was over.

"I thought I was done," said Murray, who will play volleyball for Missouri Valley's college's women's team. "I didn't think I'd be able to play again."

An MRI revealed she had torn her meniscus for the third time. Her doctor had more bad news: she could never play basketball again.

"It was awful," she said. "I didn't even come to the games because I knew I couldn't be out there."

Fortunately she had the best cheerleader a girl could have: Dad.

Master Sgt. Brian Murray, a 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron B-2 production superintendent, attended all of his daughter's games, unless duty told him otherwise.

Sergeant Murray pushed his daughter to stay in



Murray

shape, and keep her dream of playing college volleyball.

"He'd always make the effort," she said.

A later visit to the doctor revealed a new verdict. She could no longer play hoops, but she could return to volleyball since the sport did not require the same stress on her knee, the doctor said.

The 5-foot-7 outside hitter made the most of it. Brianna led the team with 31 aces and also was one of the squad's top hitters.

"I tried to play every game like it was my last," Brianna said. "I gave it everything I had."

"I think she has a lot of determination," Knob Noster volleyball coach Terri Combs said. "Her commitment to the sport as well as to her team helped her come back."

A rejuvenated Brianna helped lead her team to a five-win improvement in 2004, as the Panthers scored wins over Missouri River Valley Conference rivals that defeated them in the past.

Then, during a college visit this winter, came an unexpected invitation.

Missouri Valley coach Ed Johnson asked Murray to become a part of his women's volleyball program. She signed a National Letter of Intent Jan. 3.

"I never really thought coming from a small town and a small school that I'd ever have a chance to play in college," Brianna said.

Now she does.



Services Page editor.....Jamie Jennings
509th Services Squadron.....687-6525
*No federal endorsement of mentioned sponsors intended.

Sports & Recreation

Stars & Strikes
687-5114

Valentine's day tournament

A sweetheart scotch doubles tournament takes place 6 p.m. on Feb. 14. The cost is \$15 per couple. Prizes will be awarded. Sign up by today.

Outdoor Recreation
687-5565

Calling all fishermen

A meeting takes place noon-1 p.m. Tuesday at outdoor recreation to discuss league rules, dates and locations of tournaments. Team captains will be named and letters of intent will be available. If you cannot attend, send a representative in your place. Call for more information.

Overtime rock climbing

Open climbing is available 5:30-9 p.m. Feb. 18 for certified climbers. A certification class takes place 6-8 p.m. The course for new climbers will show basic rock climbing skills, encourage teamwork and use of equipment.

Wall climbing class

A certification class takes place 9-11 a.m. Feb. 19. The course for new climbers will show basic rock climbing skills, encourage teamwork and use of equipment.

Military appreciation days

Snow Creek Resort, in Weston, Mo., offers Military Appreciation Days Wednesdays through Feb. 23. A shuttle to the resort leaves outdoor recreation at 10:15 a.m. Feb. 16. Transportation costs \$5 per person or \$15 for a family of four. Active-duty military members get a free ski and lift pass; dependents or any other military classification with a valid ID get discounted rates. Bring snacks and lunch, or money to buy from the snack shop. The bus will leave the resort by 7:45 p.m. and return to base by 10 p.m. Call for more details.

Movie Schedule

Today & Saturday

Meet the Fockers 7 p.m. PG-13
Starring — Robert De Niro & Ben Stiller

Sunday

The Life Aquatic with Steve Zisou 5:30 p.m. R
Starring — Bill Murray & Owen Wilson

Adults: \$3.50 Children: \$1.75
Movie Recording Line: 687-5110
Movies subject to change due to availability.

For current and future movie listings log on to
<http://www.aafes.com/ems/conus/whiteman.htm>.

Tickets & Travel
687-5643

It's cruise time at Tickets & Travel. Sato Travel announced the 2005 cruise specials available through this office. Stop by the new location inside the skills development center.

Super Bowl Parties 4 p.m. Sunday

Mission's End

A party begins at 4 p.m. Sunday at Mission's End. Food specials include 10-cent hot wings and \$6 large, one-topping pizzas. There will be many giveaways including a La-Z-Boy* recliner, tailgate canopy tent, grills, a 19-inch color TV, Budweiser* merchandise and much more! Watch the game on 10 42-inch plasma TVs, a 50-inch plasma and four regular TVs. This is a members only event. Prizes are sponsored in part by Dean Williamson Furniture Co. in Warrensburg*, Frito Lay*, Budweiser* and Wal-Mart in Sedalia*.

Party silly with football & chili

A party takes place 4 p.m. Feb. 6 at the community center. Participants can make their best chili to be judged on site and eaten by those attending the party. Hot dogs, chili dogs, chips and drink will be furnished. We will be showing the pre-game and Super Bowl on big-screen TVs and the 9-foot by 9-foot theater screen. Participants can bring snacks.

Congratulations to the Services Information Fair winners

Big winners are Tammy Klonowski - Nike* golf bag; Shawn Allen - Nike* Driver; Dan Forman, Mary Olsen, Shawn Kier, Bill Hammerli and Travis Deshong, \$50 savings bonds, and Darrin Tobias, David Isaacson; and Kevin Hunt - Pitching wedges. Other prizes included a bowling ball, golf towels, scrapbooks, a custom frame, diacroic neckaces, car wash tokens, sports bottles, bird feeders and more.

All of these items and more are available to purchase at services facilities.

Sponsored by Speedway Chevrolet*, Action Realty*, First Community Bank*, First Central Bank* and Bank of Holden*.

Community Activities

Skills Development Center
687-5691

Custom frame sale

The skills development center offers a 20 percent discount on all orders placed and paid for during February.

Craft fair

A craft fair and adult art show takes place 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 19 Feb. at Mission's End. There is no vendor fee. Vendors are asked to display, sell and actively demonstrate how they create their crafts. Participants must sign up at the skills development center by Feb. 18.

Community Center
687-5617

Adopt a veteran, help a hero

During February, veterans will be matched with a young person stationed at Whiteman. This person should visit their veteran at least one hour a week. Each person must complete a brief questionnaire to volunteer.

XTreme board games

Play extreme board games 6-10 p.m. Feb. 11 at the community center. Games include, "Axis & Allies," "Risk," "Civilizaion" and more.

Veterinary Clinic
687-2667

Schedule an appointment with the vet

Make an appointment for your pet to get their vaccinations or minor sick calls. A licensed veterinarian will be available 10:30 a.m.-1:10 p.m. Monday.

Help prevent the heartbreak of lost pets

Each year more than 10 million pets are lost. Half of all dogs and 75 percent of all cats are without collars by the time they arrive at animal shelters. The veterinary clinic offers a microchip clinic 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 15 to help protect your pet if it becomes lost. This is a safe, simple and effective method that ensures your pets' identification for life. The cost is \$15 per pet. Visit the vet clinic at 401 Lockbourne Terrace between 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or 8:30-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Family Child Care
687-1180

Want a profitable home-based career?

Providers are needed to provide care for the following: evenings, weekends, swing shift workers, infants, special needs and mildly-ill children. Air Force is now offering a subsidy for providers who are willing to meet these critical needs. Providers who hold a Standard license are subsidized \$125 per week per qualifying child. Providers with chronic health problems are accepted. Call for more details.

Youth Center
687-5586

Skate day

Kindergartners through seventh graders can bring their roller blades, skates, or scooters 3-5 p.m. Saturday to skate to their favorite music.

Kids with heart

The Boys and Girls Club Tsunami relief benefit takes place 6-9 p.m. Feb. 11 at the youth center. Participants can play bingo, cookie decorating, face painting, watch a magic and comedy show and more; cost is \$2 per person or \$5 for a family. Children age 9 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up by Thursday at the youth center.

Valentine's party

A party takes place 6-10 p.m. Feb. 12 at the youth center for Kindergarten through seventh graders. The cost is \$7 for members and \$8.50 for nonmembers.

Trip to the Great American Gymnastics

Second through seventh graders can join friends at the youth center 5:30-10 p.m. Feb. 18 for a van ride to Blue Springs, Mo. Youths will be provided a sack lunch. At the center, they can climb the rock wall, play slam dunk basketball, use inflatable slides, rope swings and more. The cost is \$7 for members and \$8.50 for nonmembers.

Teen Center
687-5819

Escapist skate park

Teens can take a trip 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday to the skate park in Kansas City, Mo. Teens can challenge themselves in new ways, meet new people and test their skills. The cost is \$10 for entrance fees, meals and snacks.

Snow Creek ski trip

Teens take a ski trip 9 a.m. Feb. 19-noon Feb. 20 to Snow Creek Resort in Weston, Mo. Teens will eat dinner and spend the night at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The \$10 fee includes lift pass, ski rental, lodging, transportation and dinner. Bring money for extra snacks and breakfast. Sign up by Feb. 11.

Sweetheart dance

A sweetheart dance will be held 9 p.m.-midnight Feb. 12 at the community center. The cost is \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers.

Child Development Center
687-5588

Drop-in care

The CDC has drop-in care for all ages during regular operating hours on a space-available basis. Call for a reservation as it is subject to availability.